

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Raymond Ryals, a/k/a "Raycat," DOB: 10/02/74, of Beloit, Wisconsin, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge John Shabaz to 30 years and five months in prison, without the possibility of parole, for distributing crack cocaine. Ryals was convicted of this charge on October 10, 2006, following a one-day jury trial.

Ryals received a lengthy sentence because he has two prior convictions for drug distribution offenses. Ryals and 22 other individuals were indicted on May 10, 2006, for their involvement in the distribution of narcotics in Rock County.

The charge against Ryals was the result of an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Beloit Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the State Line Area Narcotics Team (SLANT), the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigations - Narcotics Bureau. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rita M. Rumbelow.

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